

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/327,593

Examiner

Sam Rimell

Applicant(s)

BROCK ET AL.

Art Unit

2165

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 2/18/05.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 2-7,9-11,14-17,19-22 and 26-28.
3. ☐ The drawings filed on _____ are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

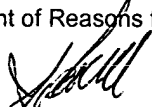
Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☒ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☒ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☒ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


Sam Rimell
Primary Examiner
Art Unit: 2165

Notice Regarding Drawings: Formal drawings are now required.

Reasons for Allowance

Claims 2-7, 9-11, 14-17, 19-22 and 26-28 are pending. Claims 10, 14, 19 and 22 are independent. Claims 2-7, 9, 11, 15-17, 20-21 and 26-28 are dependent. The closest identified prior art references are: (1) U.S. Patent 3,975,876 to Sauder; (2) U.S. Patent 5,261,849 to French; (3) U.S. Patent 1,155,523 to Smith; and (4) U.S. Patent 4,094,090 to Walmer.

Claim 10: Claim 10 is addressed to an interchangeable panel display system. The system includes a rectangular frame having a pair of parallel posts mounted at two adjacent corners of a base, each post having a longitudinal inwardly facing groove and beam spanning upper ends of the post and having a slot therethrough. At least one wall panel is removably received in the grooves on the frame and includes a decorative cover with a magnetically attractable layer disposed beneath the cover layer. None of the references to Sauder, French, Smith or Walmer, either individually or in combination, teach this combination of features.

Claim 14: Claim 14 is addressed to a method for using an interchangeable panel modular display system. The system includes a frame having a base and means for supporting a wall panel in an upright position and which means permits insertion and removal of wall panels, where the wall panels comprise different decorative surfaces and decorations are placeable and repositionable on the panels to create differing scenes. None of the references to Sauder, French, Smith or Walmer, either individually or in combination, teach this combination of features.

Claim 19: Claim 19 is addressed to an interchangeable wall panel system including a frame and first and second wall panels slidably mounted into the frame and including first and

Art Unit: 2165

second decorative surfaces. The frame further includes a base and a first and second wall sections positionable in an upright position. The wall sections include grooves for slidably receiving the wall panels. The first and second wall sections are mounted along two adjoining edges of the base. None of the references to Sauder, French, Smith or Walmer, either individually or in combination, teach this combination of features.

Claim 22: Claim 22 is addressed to an interchangeable panel display system. A frame includes four wall sections and four posts. Beams span the posts. Each post has a longitudinal inwardly facing groove and each beam has a slot therethrough in alignment with the grooves in the posts. A base comprises four lower beams spanning the four posts at the lower end. A wall panel is slidably insertable into the grooves. The wall panel includes a decorative cover and a magnetically attractable layer disposed beneath the cover. None of the references to Sauder, French, Smith or Walmer, either individually or in combination, teach this combination of features.

Accordingly, claims 10, 14, 19 and 22 are allowed. Dependent claims 2-7, 9, 11, 15-17, 19-22 and 26-28 are allowed as depending therefrom.